

Message Text

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71

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

DPW-01 RSR-01 /093 W

----- 023914

R 241050 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2136

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PROPOSES CHANGES IN SENATE ELECTION LAW

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: (A) SAIGON 8570; (B) SAIGON 8815

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED COPY OF PRESIDENTIAL LETTER CONTAINING PROPOSED CHANGES IN SENATE ELECTION LAW. IF THESE CHANGES ARE ACCEPTED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AS IS LIKELY, CANDIDATES WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTION WITHOUT SPONSORSHIP OF A POLITICAL PARTY QUALIFIED UNDER DL 060. THIEU HAS RESTORED SECTION OF BILL REQUIRING SLATES OF FIFTEEN CANDIDATES. THUS, TWO LISTS WILL EMERGE VICTORIOUS. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAD APPROVED BILL ALLOWING TEN MAN SLATES. IN
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ADDITION, PRESIDENT HAS RECOMMENDED THAT DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT BE INCREASED FROM ONE TO TWO MILLION PIASTERS.

2. COMMENT: THIEU'S ACCEPTANCE OF PRO- ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATORS' ADVICE REPORTED REFTEL A WILL BE DESCRIBED AS EFFORT TO ACHIEVE RECONCILIATION AMONG NON- COMMUNISTS, BUT IT IS UNCLEAR IF IT WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL. REFTEL B REPORTED THAT PROGRESSIVE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT POLITICIAN NHAN MINH TRANG BELIEVED DEMOCRACY PARTY WOULD WIN ON BOTH SLATES IF THIEU RESTORED REQUIREMENT FOR FIFTEEN MEMBER LISTS. STAUNCHLY OPPOSITIONIST SENATOR PHAM VAN TAM TOLD EMBOFFS ON MAY 23 THAT RELATIONS ARE SO EMBITTERED THAT EVEN IF THIEU WERE TO ATTEMPT RECONCILIATION, OPPOSITION WOULD CONTINUE TO DOUBT HIS SINCERITY.
WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAGS: PINT, PINT
To: BANGKOK
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
CINCPAC
DANANG
EA
JEC PARIS

NHA TRANG
SECSTATE WASHDC

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